

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7041

BILL NUMBER: HB 1394

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 7, 2006

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Vanderburgh County Consolidation.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Avery

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 X DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill establishes the Vanderburgh County Government Consolidation Commission (the Commission) to study government consolidation in Evansville and Vanderburgh County. The bill provides that the University of Southern Indiana shall provide staff support for the Commission. The bill specifies that the Commission shall study whether the functions of any office or governmental department in Vanderburgh County or the administration of any service or program provided by a unit of local government in Vanderburgh County should be consolidated. The bill provides that the Commission may not meet unless the voters of Vanderburgh County vote in favor of the continued study of Consolidation in a nonbinding local public question voted on in the 2006 General Election.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill establishes the Vanderburgh County Government Consolidation Commission to study the unification of city and county governments in Vanderburgh County and recommend whether or not the General Assembly should unify the city and county governments. The Commission would issue its final recommendations before December 1, 2008. The chair of the Commission, however, shall call a meeting only if the residents of Vanderburgh County have voted in favor of the General Assembly continuing to study consolidation in Vanderburgh County.

Background: The Commission would consist of 23 members, with six legislators and 17 members divided among elected officials or appointed by local government officials. The qualifications of each member of the Commission are specified within the bill. The bill specifies the Commission shall operate under the policies governing study committees adopted by the Legislative Council. As of December 2005, legislators receive a

per diem of \$134 and reimbursement for traveling expenses. Lay members of a legislative commission are also entitled to a per diem, which is currently \$75 per day, and reimbursement for traveling expenses. The actual amount of per diem and the rate of reimbursement for travel could differ at the time a meeting is called for the Commission. Commission members' expenses would be paid from funds appropriated to the Legislative Council. In the last interim, the budget for study committees with 16 or more members was \$16,500.

The University of Southern Indiana would provide staff for the Commission.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Travel expenditures for the City of Evansville and Vanderburgh County may increase if meetings of the Commission are called, depending on where the meetings are held.

Adding the public question to the ballot of the 2006 general election would have a minimal fiscal impact on the cost of printing ballots for the election.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Legislative Services Agency; Legislative Council.

Local Agencies Affected: City of Evansville, Vanderburgh County.

Information Sources: Legislative Council Resolution 05-02.

Fiscal Analyst: Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.